

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 011430Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5924

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

URUESQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5703

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG

SUBJ: INDO-PAK DISCUSSIONS IN ISLAMABAD

SUMMARY: MEA PAKISTAN JOINT SECRETARY CHIB DESCRIBES

INDO-PAK DISCU-

SIONS LAST WEEK AS MAKING SOME SLOW

PROGRESS AND AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN GENERALLY CORDIAL

ATMOSPHERE. MAIN ISSUE TO WHICH ADVANCES MADE WAS

ON THE TRANSFER OF BIHARIS. THERE ARE SOME SIGNS THE INDIANS

AND PAKISTANIS HAVE DISCUSSED EITHER SOME ALTERNATIVE

RESOLUTION OF THE POW TRIAL ISSUE OR "PUTTING IT ASIDE" FOR

THE TIME BEING. THE INDIANS ARE NOW WAITING TO DISCUSS THE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUJIB. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR TODAY (AUG 1) MEA

JOINT SECRETARY PAKISTAN, ASHOK CHIB, SAID THE INDIANS

HAD BEEN PLEASED BY THE GENERALLY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY

ATMOSPHERE THEY FOUND IN PAKISTAN BUT WAS EXTREMELY

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CAUTIOUS IN DESCRIBING INDO-PAK DISCUSSIONS IN ISLAMABAD

LAST WEEK.

2. CHIB

OBSERVED THAT PAKISTAN SIDE IN NEGOTIATIONS HAD GRADUALLY GIVEN SOME WAY ON THE QUESTION OF BIHARIS. THIS HAD BEEN DONE BY GRADUALLY EXPANDING THE FORMULA UNDER WHICH PAKISTAN WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT BACK MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP IN BANGLADESH. BY THE TIME THE TALKS ENDED, PAKISTAN HAD SAID THEY WOULD ACCEPT 50,000 PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 WITH TIES IN PAKISTAN. FROM THIS GROUP, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBTRACTED THOSE 10-12,000 WHO ALREADY HAD LEFT BANGLADESH FOR PAKISTAN AND WHO HAD EITHER ARRIVED OR WERE IN TRANSIT 733.G., IN NEPAL).

3. ON THE QUESTION OF POW

TRIALS, THE ONLY HINT CHIB GAVE OF THE DIRECTION THE TALKS HAD BEEN MOVING WAS TO SUGGEST THAT PERSONS ON BOTH THE PAKISTAN AFS BANGLADESH SIDE WHO WERE SCHEDULED TO BE TRIED MIGHT BE "FROZEN" IN PLACE WHILE EXCHANGES OF OTHER PERSONS WENT AHEAD. CHIB AGREED HIS WAS AN IDEA WHICH HAD BEEN FLOUTED LONG BEFORE BUT SAID, "ARE THERE ANY NEW IDEAS?" AT THE SAME TIME, CHIB SAID THAT SO FAR AS THE INDIANS WERE AWARE SHEIKH MUJIB'S POSITION ON THE TRIALS REMAINED UNCHANGED AND IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHAT HIS VIEW OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AS WELL AS OF THE PAKISTAN APPROACH ON BIHARIS WOULD BE. CHIB SAID THE PAKISTANIS SAID THAT IF ALL ELSE FAILED, PRISONERS ON BOTH SIDES MIGHT BE TRIED AND THEN EXCHANGED. BUT THEY FIGURED STRONGLY THIS WOULD POISON THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE FUTURE AND THE INDIAN SIDE TENDED TO AGREE.

4. CHIB DESCRIBED THE INDIAN SIDE AS HAVING BEEN "HURT"

BY AGHA SHAHI'S COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED COMMENTS TO THE PRESS JUST BEFORE THE INDIAN DELEGATION DEPARTED TO THE EFFECT THAT INDIA HAD RAISED "EXTRANEIOUS SUBJECTS" IN THE DISCUSSIONS. TO THE CONTRARY, CHIB SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN PAKISTAN WHICH HAD RAISED SUCH ISSUES AS RECOGNITION AND BANGLADESH UN ADMISSION WHICH THE INDIANS FELT DID NOT BELONG IN THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH IF THE PAKISTANIS CHOSE TO BE FORTHCOMING ON THESE SUBJECTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE INDIANS NATURALLY HAD NO OBJECTION.

5. CHIB SAID THAT HE AND JOINT SECRETARY FOR INDIA IN THE

PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ABDUL SATTAR, HAD MET INFORMALLY AND AGREED TO MONITOR PURPORTEDLY OFFENSIVE PROPAGANDA BY EACH OTHER'S SIDE IN AN EFFORT TO EXCHANGE DATA ON WHICH SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS DESIGNED

TO HALT SUCH BROADCASTS COULD BE HELD. THE INDIANS ALSO
TOLD THE PAKUSTANIS THAT THEY WURE PREPARED TO DISCUSS
OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS WHENEVER THE PAKISTANIS WISHED TO
DO SO.
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